



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
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Senator Carpenter: Now is The Time to Give Recall Laws Bipartisan Review
“Recent recall elections highlight need for updating statutes.”

Madison – Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) today repeated his call for a Joint Legislative Council study committee to review Wisconsin’s statutes governing recall elections and to recommend any necessary updates. Senator Carpenter had previously submitted his request in February of this year; his request was supported by a bi-partisan coalition of state legislators.

“The unprecedented recall elections of 2011 and 2012 have raised questions whether the rules governing recalls are up-to-date and adequate for the job. Now that the contentious recalls appear to have run their course, both parties in the legislature should work to identify areas of the statutes that need revision so they can be responsibly dealt with next session,” said Carpenter.

The Legislative Council establishes study committees to examine major issues and problems that could be addressed by the Legislature. The study committees appointed by the Council are made up of Legislators and citizens who are interested in or knowledgeable about the study topic.

Senator Carpenter suggested that, as a starting point, the Legislative Council study committee might begin with the following questions:

- Should circulators of a recall petition reside in Wisconsin?
- Should there be a limit on contributions to an elected official before a recall is certified?
- Should giving something of value for signing a petition be prohibited?
- Should recall petitions be posted online after submission to the GAB?
- Should the GAB be required to review recall signatures and determine if signatures are appropriate?
- Should party affiliation be required in a primary election (the “fake candidates” issue)?
- Should the threshold number of signatures to hold a recall be changed?

“Reviewing our recall laws in a bipartisan study committee will ensure the voters that potential changes will be addressed with the goal of making recalls in Wisconsin as fair and accurate as possible. We have the opportunity to do this right, and we should take it, said Carpenter.

Senator Carpenter’s press releases are available for review at
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen03/news>

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